



Georgia Department of Agriculture

Gary W. Black, Commissioner

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SW • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

May 26, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket # 11-65

FCC Commissioners,

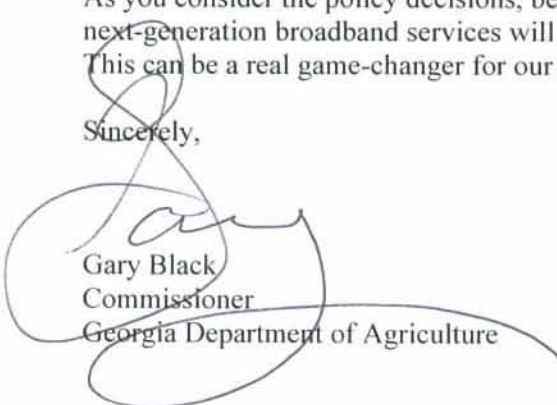
I may be new in my position as Georgia's Agriculture Commissioner, but I am a long-time advocate of expanded broadband service in the rural parts of Georgia. I believe that actions by the Federal Communications Commission can have a profound impact on our ability to bring broadband wireless service throughout the state, and I want you to know that I support any actions on your part that move us closer to that goal.

As a former president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, I know how cutting edge communications services can positively affect business. The Internet can open the doors to worldwide markets for farmers and small businesses throughout the state. It can enable purchases with the click of a mouse rather than a long drive into town or the big city. It can allow agricultural specialists to connect with businesses, farms and ranches to share the latest information.

Taking all of this to the wireless level will enable many small businesses, farm offices and rural homes to have high-speed broadband access for the first time. It may not be efficient or affordable to string wires down every farm road to every building, but by putting in cellular towers, wireless companies can serve as many customers as their signals can reach. This truly is the fastest way to reach our National Broadband Plan goal of extending high-speed service to all of the country.

As you consider the policy decisions, before you, I hope you will keep in mind the improvements that next-generation broadband services will bring to the rural parts of Georgia and the rest of the country. This can be a real game-changer for our rural economy.

Sincerely,



Gary Black
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Agriculture